Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-02 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SP-03

AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20

STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00 INT-08 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01

AGR-20 DRC-01 SAJ-01 /197 W

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R 191003Z JUN 74 FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7574 INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN AMEMBASSY MOSCOW AMEMBASSY OSLO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HELSINKI 1206

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, FI, US

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

SUBJECT: FINNS ATTEMPTING TO RENEGOTIATE NEWSPRINT DELIVERY CONTRACTS

REF: HELSINKI 1134

- 1. CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF FINNISH PAPER MILLS ASSOCIATION, JORMA KEINO, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR TO INFORM HIM THAT FINNS ATTEMPTING TO RENEGOTIATE AND/OR CANCEL LONG TERM NEWSPRINT DELIVERY CONTRACTS TO U.S.
- 2. MESSRS. NYSTEN AND RAUTANEN FROM FINLAND, ALONG WITH PRESIDENT OF MADDEN CORP. (AGENT IN U.S.) MR. AUWARTER, MAKING ROUNDS OF AMERICAN IMPORTERS OF FINNISH NEWSPRINT WITH MESSAGE THAT FINNS CURRENTLY LOSING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UP TO \$100 PER TON ON DELIVERIES TO U.S. AND REGRETFULLY

MUST RENEGOTIATE OR TERMINATE LONG-TERM DELIVERY CONTRACTS. FINNISH COSTS HAVE INCREASED FASTER THAN U.S. AND CANADIAN COSTS FOR NEWSPRINT DELIVERED IN NORTH AMERICA BECAUSE OF A) DOLLAR DEVALUATION VIS-A-VIS FINNMARK, B) FINNISH PAPER INCORPORATES UP TO 30 PER CENT SAWMILL GRADE LOGS BECAUSE OF TIMBER SHORTAGE, C) FINNISH ENERGY COSTS IN MANUFACTURING PROCESS MUCH HIGHER THAN NORTH AMERICAN, AND D) SHARPLY HIGHER SHIPPING COSTS. FINNISH PAPER WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN FOOTHOLD IN U.S. MARKET THROUGH PRINTING AND SPECIALITY PAPERS.

3. COMMENT: THIS VISIT WAS INSPIRED BY RECENT FALSE
ALLEGATIONS BROUGHT TO BEAR AGAINST PULP EXPORTERS THAT
DELIVERIES WERE BEING DIVERTED FROM WEST TO HELP PAY FOR
HIGHER COSTS OF SOVIET OIL. KEINO SAID THAT HE DID NOT
YET KNOW HOW MUCH PAPER WOULD BE EXPORTED TO USSR DURING
THE NEXT YEAR (WHICH WILL BE FIRST YEAR OF YET TO BE
NEGOTIATED FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT), BUT PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS WERE THAT THERE WAS NO DESIRE ON THE PART OF
SOVIETS TO INCREASE CURRENT MODERATE LEVELS OF
NEWSPRINTS IMPORTS.
KREHBIEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: EXPORTS, PULPS, TRADE AGREEMENTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 19 JUN 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HEL SIN01206

Document Number: 1974HELSIN01206 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D740159-1158

From: HELSINKI

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740633/aaaabbwp.tel Line Count: 83

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION EUR Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: HELSINKI 1134

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: garlanwa

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 16 APR 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <01 AUG 2002 by garlanwa>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: FINNS ATTEMPTING TO RENEGOTIATE NEWSPRINT DELIVERY CONTRACTS

TAGS: ETRD, FI, US

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005